



### Jonathan J. Tsosie

Born and raised on the Navajo Reservation, Jonathan is a hoop dancer, flute player, pow-wow singer and also a champion fancy dancer. Jonathan has competed in many pow-wows and performed in various shows throughout the Navajo nation and locations across the United States. Grand Canyon West, Mississippi, and Lake Havasu are the many places that Jonathan has showed his expertise in his style of dancing. Later Jonathan was joined with a "sidekick" which happened to be his son, Ian Tsosie. Ian joined his father at the age of 2 years old, he was in awe of the colors, music and the bells jingling by his father's footsteps. Ian now performs at Grand Canyon West and his school for his fellow peers and has also competed in the tiny tots division at pow-wows and placing first a majority of the time.

The style of hoop dancing originated from various tribes with different beliefs and history of the hoop dance. Jonathan dances with 5-9 hoops and makes different formations with the hoops such as a horse, butterfly, etc. In the Navajo tradition, hoops are used in traditional ceremonies to heal the sick and to ward off evil spirits. Just like other dancers, Jonathan makes his own hoops, regalia and bead work to go along with the dance he enjoys.